

# TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPRING TERM 2022 - EDITION 6

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



## WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

It seems a million miles away from the start of the new term in January when we returned after the Christmas break, encountering a new variant of Covid-19. Measures such as face masks had to be reintroduced and some long awaited trips and visits had to be postponed. It was a difficult time for everyone and we would like to thank you all including students, staff and parents for the part you played. Thankfully the new wave didn't last too long

and we, as a College, were able to get back to some kind of normality. There are still challenges along the way, but thankfully we are learning to live with Covid moving forward.

We have had many great experiences this term and you will see throughout the newsletter the variety of opportunities that our students at Minsthorpe are involved in. It was fantastic to once again see parents face to face at the Year 8 options

evening and the Year 11 exam information session. Parents turned out in huge numbers to show their commitment to the education of their son or daughter, which is great to see. Our vision states that we are a place where everyone plays their part and there is no one more important than parents in this sentiment. At Minsthorpe this term we have had whole College events such as World Book Day, National Careers Week and the College's production of Grease. We have also had opportunities for individual





year groups like the Year 8 Science Fair and the Post 16 Road Traffic Collision demonstration. The write ups in the Newsletter will give you more information, but we are so proud of the way our students are motivated and get involved with all that we offer. We don't want to miss this opportunity to congratulate some individual students on their successes this term also. The dedication, time and effort that goes into their individual achievements is inspiring to us all. Finally we would like to thank John Liversidge OBE who wrote to us, as one of the founding students of Minsthorpe Community College, having joined the College in 1968. He talked about his achievements in life, which you can read in his letter at the end, but what touched us the most is how he dedicated his inspiration and achievements back to his teachers here at Minsthorpe, who believed in him and helped him realise his potential, culminating in an OBE from the Queen. It definitely makes us reflect on our roles as teachers and the positive influence we have on the students that we teach. The care that our teachers show every single day here at Minsthorpe is reflected in the achievements and goals of the young people we serve.

We hope you have a great Easter break and get the chance to spend time with family and friends. We look forward to the Summer Term where it all starts again and we continue to make more memories.

Mr Gilmore

M. Gilmore

Mrs Merritt

F. A. Merritt

## JOHN LIVERSIDGE OBE

I am one of the original pupils of Minsthorpe, having joined when the school first opened its doors in September 1968.

I have recently retired and during interviews about my work I was asked where my inspiration came from. On reflection, I realise what a huge part the teachers at Minsthorpe played in helping me achieve the things I did.

*You can read the full letter sent in by John on the last page of this newsletter.*



*Pictured at Henley demonstrating TecSOS to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh - 2012*



*Pictured at his police long service medal ceremony - 2002*



*Pictured with his OBE at Windsor Castle - Feb 2022*



*School exchange visit with German students - pictured at Wooley Hall - 1970*





## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

On Monday 7th February we took seven Ctec Sport level 3 students to New Milller Dam to complete the outdoor adventurous P7 part of their Unit 18.

It was a chilly but sunny start and all the class produced videos of themselves using a compass and map to navigate around the orienteering course. All students demonstrated confidence in navigation and all completed the various courses. Impressive work!



## LEEDS UNIVERSITY STEM VISIT 2



GCSE Design Technology students in Year 10 were treated to another visit from Leeds University who delivered another interesting, thought provoking and engaging session as part of their STEM Outreach Programme.

This time we were joined by students from Leeds University who are studying across different areas of STEM.

The students represented Minsthorpe impeccably well and were all engaged throughout. We look forward to having Leeds University back in the near future to deliver more sessions to our students.





## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION



The Design Technology department held their annual Year 8 options promotion event again during the Spring

Term. Students are able to walk around the event and find out key information about what each area of



Design Technology looks like in KS4.

All students were engaged during the event, with a lot of students excited about what outcomes they will see when they join Design Technology in KS4.



## GCSE ROCK CLIMBING

From Friday 7th to Friday 14th Jan 38 Year 10 students and one Year 11 went to the Foundry climbing centre in Sheffield.

All students learnt how to put on a harness correctly, tie a figure of 8 knot into their harness, overhand knot and a clove hitch knot, belay another climber using an ATC and gri-gri, boulder style climbing and top rope climbing many routes; some making 6a+ standard. All students were enthusiastic to learn and put their fears of heights and falling to one side to have an outstanding learning experience. Behaviour was impeccable

and all students set a good example for themselves and for the college. All staff members commented on our students' positivity.

Mr Abbott is grateful to Mr Truelove and Mrs Cooper; without their hard work the trip would not of been able to run. Mr Truelove actually put a harness on and had a little dabble on the routes (he struggled to hold his toothbrush the following morning due to his hands and arms being so tired)

Another extremely successful trip and next year's booking is already in the diary!





## BUSY, BUSY, BUSY FOR THE KS3 RESOURCE PROVISION

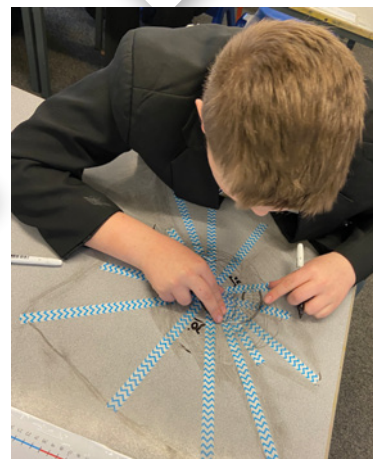
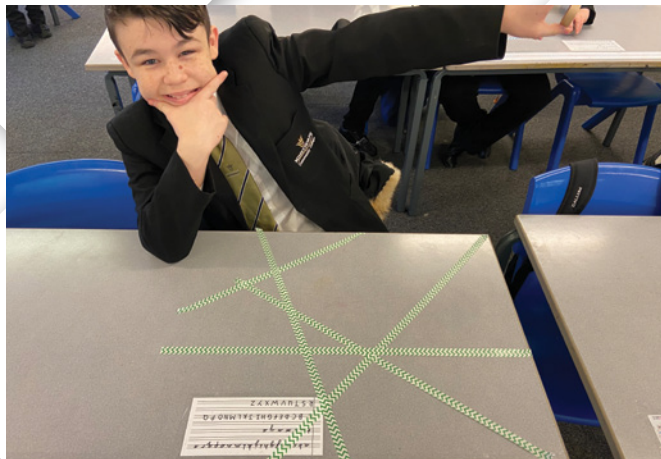
The KS3 RP have been extremely busy this term and here are just a few examples of what the students have been up to.

During our Chemistry Science unit on chemical reactions we were looking at what happens when we mix different solutions including acids and alkalis.

The students carried out an experiment to create exploding rockets linked to our physics unit on the Solar System.

During our previous unit on Inheritance and Genetics we looked at evidence of evolutions through fossils. The students looked a range of real life fossils and evidence of adaption and evolution. They then followed a recipe to create salt dough and made their own fossil.

In Maths, during our unit on Angles the students used tape on their desks to create a range of different angles. They then applied their learning from the unit and carefully measured and labelled the different angles using a protractor. This was lots of fun as you can see by the look on Jerry's face





## BUDDING YOUNG ARTISTS

Our Year 12 BTEC Level 3 Music recitals went really well this term. Students have worked extremely hard, and performance skills have gone from strength to strength. The musicianship and professionalism demonstrated was excellent, We are very proud of them!  
Elle, Marissa, Macey & Ben all got Distinctions!



## DONE US PROUD!

The Year 8 Girls football team finished second in the West Yorkshire football tournament. The girls were absolutely fantastic. They finished the tournament unbeaten; winning 3 games and drawing 2. They missed out on winning the tournament on goal difference, by 2 goals. All the girls showed fantastic Motivation, Commitment and Care throughout the tournament and really did Minsthorpe proud!





# POST 16 ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION DEMONSTRATION



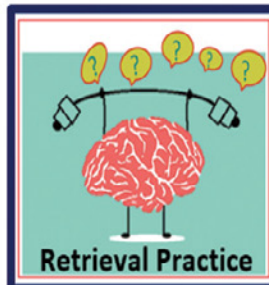
Post 16 students had a hands on encounter of the potential consequences of being involved in a road traffic collision. West Yorkshire Fire Service delivered a highly engaging session that showed students the importance of driving safely and not taking risks. The session finished with the fire crew demonstrating how the team would extract people from a car that had been involved in a collision.

## LET Breakfast Bites

Over the last term, MCC teachers have been showing their **commitment** to 'Quality First Teaching' by voluntarily attending **morning CPD sessions**. Each Wednesday, a short 'espresso style' session is delivered from 8.30am to 8.40am, with the aim of **maximising student learning opportunities and experiences**.



Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be **EVEN BETTER**.  
Dylan William



**I do.**  
**We do.**  
**You do.**

**stretch**  
**& CHALLENGE**





## COMMUNITY HERO, WILLIAM!



William, Year 11, is a cadet at Normanton Detachment and for his 3 star cadet in the community and part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award he has been doing a food bank collection. This collection helped families who would otherwise have struggled to enjoy Christmas



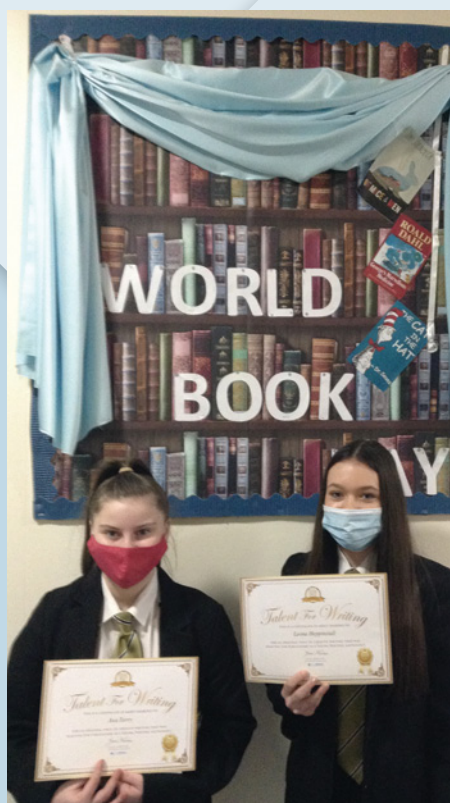
## P16 GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY DURING WORK SKILLS





## FLOURISHING YOUNG WRITERS

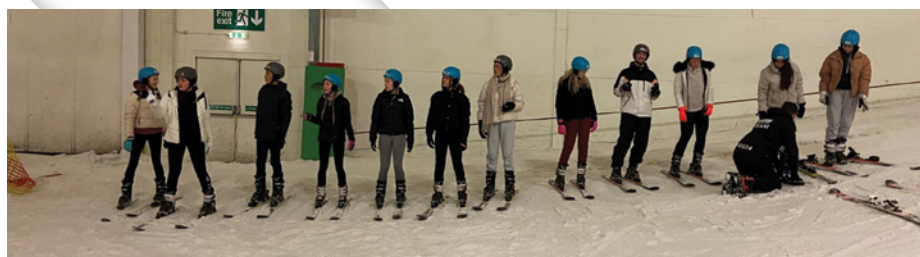
Minsthorpe Community College is pleased to announce two of its Year 8 students have been selected to be published in Young Writers' latest anthology. Students were asked to craft a short story of no more than 100 words based on the theme of 'empowerment'. The anthology celebrates Young Writers' 30th anniversary and over 12,000 students submitted short stories- yet only around 300 were selected for publication. We would like to extend our congratulations to Ava who continues to be selected for publication, building on an impressive collection of writing in 2021, and Leona - this is the first time Leona has been selected for publication and we hope to see more of her writing in print in the future.



## HITTING THE SLOPES



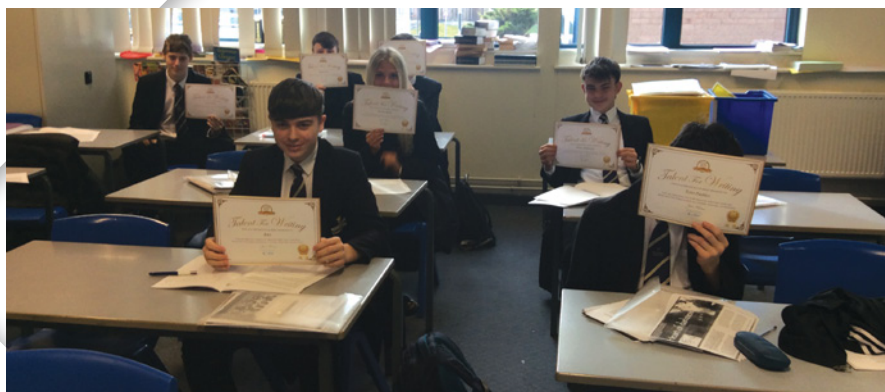
This term we went on a ski lesson trip to Xscape Yorkshire. The students were excellent and picked up the basic stop and turn extremely quickly.



## YOUNG WRITERS TWISTED TALE

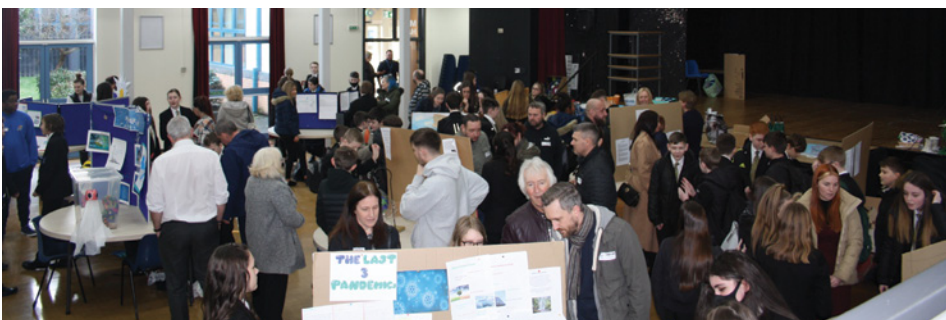
A brilliant response to Young Writers' latest creative writing competition. Over 20 students have been accepted for publication and every single writer is a competition winner for the first time. We would like to send a warm congratulations to: Jaymie Hartley, Lewis Allen, Lydia Clarke, Olivia Crummack, Chelsea Wilson, Sandra Gawronowska,

Thomas Binks, Ashton Metcalf, Charlie Shaw, Ethan Thorne, Tilly Leafe, Bailey McLintock, Aeron Jepson, Phoebe Mann, Tyler Pashley, Ella Lowery, Ruby Humphrys, Kaila-Mae Hemingbrough, Macci Brodie, Ella Iveson, David Baugaen, Kalan Parker, Lilly-May Parsons, Harry Whittall, Harrison Exley and Madison Chaplin. So proud of you all!





## YEAR 8 SCIENCE FAIR



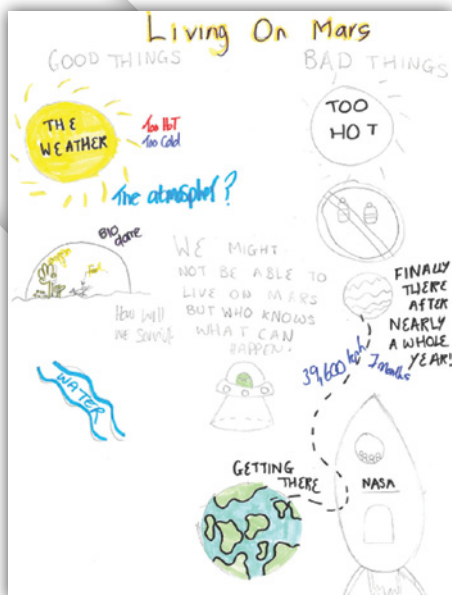
On the 11th February Year 8 students were invited to participate in the 2022 Science Fair. Our theme this year was "Our Fragile Earth" and the sixty students involved had spent the previous six weeks at home researching their own chosen topic on the theme. They then arrived on the morning of the fair with models, posters and extended pieces of writing to present to their peers, teachers and carers/parents.

Clearly our students had put in a lot of effort into these projects because the standard was very high. We had presentations detailing the fragile seas, the plight of the polar ice caps, the decline of important pollinators and many more.

In the end we had a winner from the Davy side of the year and one from the Moore side. For Davy, Charlie won with his very detailed model talking about earthquakes and from Moore, Alyssia won for her project based around acid rain. What made her project so brilliant was that she had spent the six weeks at home with two plants investigating the effects acid rain had on their growth - Scientific investigation at it's best! For this reason it was decided that Alyssia should take home the overall winners trophy, but everyone agreed that everyone was a winner. Well done Year 8.







## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



The theme of British Science Week this year was growth. With our KS3 students we chose to explore our expanding Universe looking at how scientific developments are made and the impact they have on our lives.

The James Webb Space telescope was launched on Christmas Day in 2021. This was the culmination of a science project that started in 1996 and cost billions of pounds.

Our students used this idea to design their own ideas for a way to travel to Mars in the case of overpopulation on Earth.



## SCIENCE CLUB

Throughout the Spring Term, students in Science Club have competed against each other in activities that have challenged their problem-solving skills by getting to grips with everyday life situations.

By trying to build the tallest and most stable tower, students have understood the challenges that engineers face when designing buildings. By trying to build the balloon-powered car which could travel furthest, students have gained an understanding of friction and air resistance. By looking into how farmers in Nepal use systems to carry tomatoes down a mountainside without damaging them, students have not only approached a practical problem in order to find a solution, but they have also had the opportunity to discuss sustainability and having access food and water can sometimes be a challenge. Fantastic commitment!

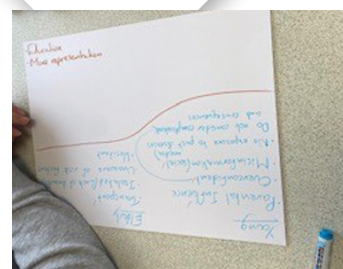
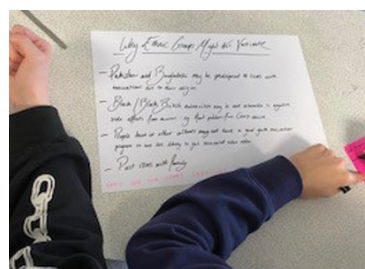




## POST-16 SCIENCE ENRICHMENT



Our A level chemists and biologists were given insight into opportunities available following the continuation of science at higher education. A visiting PhD student detailed their research into vaccinations and the differences in vaccine uptake across different regions. Students articulated their opinions as well as giving suggestions as to the factors affecting vaccines globally. Students actively took part and were able to ask general questions they had about attending university.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March 2022 marked the 25th Anniversary of this wonderful opportunity for schools across the country to celebrate the past, present and future of children's literature and promote reading for pleasure. Every student at MCC received a voucher for a book of their own or a £1 reduction from a full price title. All students were given the opportunity to read some inspirational literature in every lesson throughout

the day. The three novels all dealt with teenagers facing different challenges, whether they were around their race, gender or social expectations. We studied extracts from 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas, 'My Brother's Name is Jessica' by Jon Boyne and 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott. The discussions which arose from this collaborative reading were mature, insightful and deeply moving. Mrs Thompson, the English teacher who created the



resources for World Book Day, said "It is fantastic to see so many students inspired to read these texts now. There are so many great novels out there for teenagers; just keep reading!" The English Team celebrated by dressing up as their favourite literary characters, and lots of fun activities were available with Mrs Smith in the library.





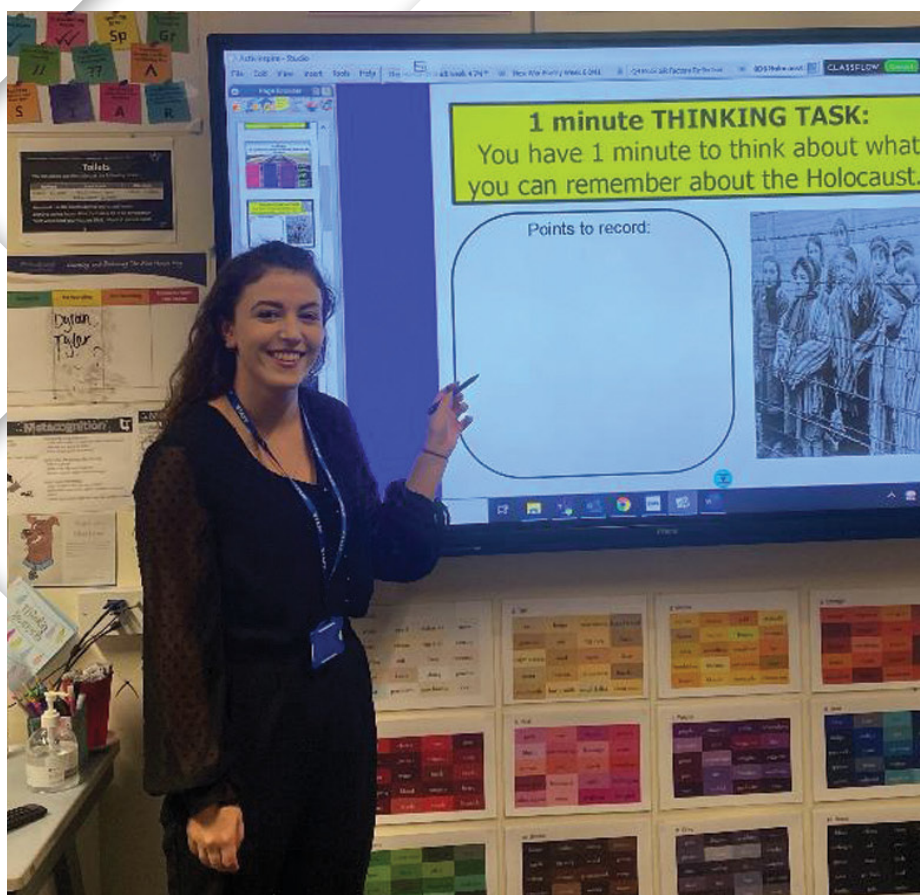
# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TRAINEE ENGLISH TEACHER

Today is the official launch of the countdown to final exams! All the teachers in school were wearing revision T-shirts with tips on how to revise effectively.

I arrived at college by 8am and spent the majority of time before school trying to fix the printer so that I could print out all my resources for the week. I eventually admitted defeat and went to set up my classroom, ready to teach my first class of the day.

Once my classroom was set up, I attended a whole staff meeting where the leadership team briefed us on the exam countdown launch and what revision strategies we should be discussing with students in our lessons. We were also reminded about the importance of ensuring students' wellbeing as this may be a very stressful and overwhelming time for them. After the briefing I returned to my classroom to greet my class. I delivered a lesson on the concept of the Doppelgänger in Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and my class came up with some really perceptive comments and ideas.

After this lesson I had a free period and I managed to mark all of the assessments that had been building up. Marking an English essay can be quite difficult but it is so rewarding to see the student's hard work. I had a quick lunch with the rest of the English



department, and it was nice to catch up with them all and spend some time with the whole department. I taught another lesson after lunch and my students told me they were feeling stressed about their upcoming exams, so I decided to spend some time in this lesson listening to their concerns and developing strategies on time management, organisation and how to cope with stress. This isn't how I planned my lesson to go but it is always important to focus on what the students need and by the end of this lesson my class were feeling a lot more optimistic about the coming weeks.

I ended the day by having my weekly meeting with my mentor. This is a good opportunity for me to

develop my skills as a teacher and to be able to discuss how my lessons are going. This weekly meeting is also used as a chance to catch up with my mentor and she is able to check in on how I am doing. The college day ended at 4pm and when I got home, I made myself something to eat and planned an English language lesson for next week. I will be teaching Language and Gender theory which is something I find really interesting and I am looking forward to teaching it.

I enjoy every single day I spend teaching; no two days are the same and there is always something exciting in my day!

Miss A Weaver  
YTCA SCITT







**GREASE**

IS THE WORD





## EVERY DAY IS CAREERS DAY AT MINSTHORPE

It has been a busy couple of weeks for the careers team at Minsthorpe. National Careers Week started on the 7th of March with all students in an extended P&A time, the focus being Careers and Aspirational futures.

All the tasks that students worked on were linked to the Motivation, Commitment and Care in the Classroom document which the college has developed to reflect both the college ethos and the national Skills Builder Skills. These are the skills all students will need in the future both in higher education and employment.

Mr Dowey would also like to pass on his thanks to Mrs Lewis for all her hard work during the lead up to National Careers Week and the excellent resources she produced to support the activities.

Timings	Y7	Timings	Y8	Timings	Y9	Timings	Y10	Timings	Y11
12 mins	Recorded Intro	12 mins	Recorded Intro	12 mins	Recorded Intro	12 mins	Recorded Intro	12 mins	Recorded Intro
15 mins	Stem recording & discussion	15 mins	Stem recording & discussion	15 mins	Stem recording & discussion	15 mins	Stem recording & discussion	15 mins	Stem recording & discussion
15 mins	Explanation & activity sheet	15 mins	Explanation & activity sheet	3 mins	Raised participation age - discussion	3 mins	Raised participation age - discussion	3 mins	Raised participation age - discussion
6 mins	P16 at MCC	6 mins	P16 at MCC	1.5 mins	Alumni student - Jack Pownall	6 mins	P16 at MCC	6 mins	P16 at MCC
1.5 mins	Alumni student - Jack Pownall	1 min	Reminder about Careers Fair timings & Option Evening	8 mins	Work Experience Clip (stop after Volunteering page)	1.5 mins	Alumni student - Jack Pownall	1.5 mins	Alumni student - Jack Pownall
1 min	Ella - Current P16 student	1.5 mins	Alumni student - Jack Pownall	2/3 mins	Activity Sheet	15 mins	Info & Activity Sheet	15 mins	Info & Activity Sheet
		1 min	Ella - Current P16 student	1 min	Ella - Current P16 student	half a min	Careers Fair timing reminders	1 min	Ella - Current P16 student
					1 min	Ella - Current P16 student			

Science CTL, Dr Sutton spoke about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), explaining what STEM is, why there is a focus on STEM and what you can do with STEM. In addition he discussed what STEM at Minsthorpe Community College looks like. The presentation was excellent and again there were a lot of skills highlighted in the presentation.



## YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Finally, we come to the Year 10 Mock Interviews, business people from around Yorkshire came in to college to interview our students, there was some great feedback from the interviewers regarding our students CVs and their interviews. Mr Dowey would like to thank Max Shaw for all his help with the signing in process, as well as Maddison Broadhurst, Summer Wilson and Kieron Jubb who also supported the activity.



Also a big thanks to Sophie and Jatinder for all the great photos.

We received positive feedback from the external interviewers, including The whole thing from start to finish was excellent. It was one of the most organised school sessions I have done over the years, well set out, well organised and arranged. I met some great people doing the interviews and the school has such a great feel about it, welcoming and supportive. The students were smart and polite and respectful and thoroughly enjoyed the two days.'





## RUGBY LEAGUE SUCCESS

Ashton is a superb student in class and out of the classroom on the rugby pitch and has been a genuine pleasure to coach since Year 7. Ashton is coachable, tough, committed and dominating as a rugby league player and his hard work has been rewarded with a scholarship at Wakefield Rugby League Academy. Ashton has impressed the coaches at Wakefield so much with his leadership skills and ability on the pitch that they made him captain for the first scholarship match of the season v Castleford Tigers. Well done Ashton - what a superb role model and inspiration for younger students at Minsthorpe.



## CAREERS FAIR



It was great to have the careers fair back to being actual and in person. There was a great buzz in the Sports

Hall as students interacted well with stall holders. York St John said, "Students had a clear idea of their aspirations" & "I really appreciated the help from the P16 students" (Thanks to the level 2 work skills group who supported stall holders with bringing in their equipment). After the careers fair we moved onto the Year 8 Options Evening which this year was held in the new Sports Hall too. There was a great turn out of both students and their parents and carers. Again you could hear the buzz from all the great conversations taking place.



## YEAR 9 WORK SHADOWING

90 students from Year 9 spent a day shadowing a family member at work. This included a range of workplaces & jobs, such as a solicitor's office, taxi driver, oil painting and plumbing. We would like to thank the parents/carers who were able to organise this valuable experience for their children.





Dear Mark and Rachel,

On the 9th February I was honoured to be presented with an OBE by the Princess Royal at Windsor Castle.

I have given numerous interviews about my work and on one occasion, was asked what inspired me to achieve my goals. It is not a question I had been asked previously. I concluded that the catalyst for my journey began when I walked through the doors of a brand-new school, known at that time as Minsthorpe High School.

To understand the transformational impact of the school on me, it might be helpful to add some context to the period.

At that time, the main industry in the area was mining. Most of the local towns (Frickley, Upton, South Kirkby, Hemsworth, Grimethorpe etc) had their own pits, and these became hubs around which formed tight local communities.

Education was similarly localised. With the exception of one or two grammar schools, secondary education for the majority of young people was delivered at their local 'secondary modern'. None of the local secondary schools offered the option of qualifications and pupils left school at 15 to start work.

Expectations were low. Adamant that I did not want to go down the pit, my teacher at the time suggested that as an alternative, I might go for a 'posher job' such as a wages clerk in the pit offices. Since we knew no different, few envisaged a life beyond their local town. Education was something you did until you were old enough to earn a wage.

I remember being filled with dread when we were informed of the plans to build a new school that would take pupils from all the surrounding towns and villages. I was even more concerned when I calculated that it would be built and open before I left school.

The school first opened its doors in September 1968. I was in the very first year group to enroll and I was present when HRH the Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the school the following February. The building and facilities were second to none and way beyond what we had previously come to accept as the norm.

But, wonderful though they were, it was the teachers, and the range of educational opportunities on offer that were the most amazing aspect of our new school.

For me it was like an Aladdin's cave of educational opportunity. There were subjects on the curriculum, such as physics, biology, chemistry, drama, religious studies etc, that to us were previously unheard of.

Subjects that I had previously considered as dull were brought to life. I went on a field trip to North Wales to study glaciation and fell in love with geography. In history we studied the first and second world wars, and as part of the syllabus we interviewed local people who had actually lived through the conflicts. In addition to traditional sports, we also did subjects such as Basketball, Gymnastics and Rugby. We took part in exchange visits with students from other countries, and looked at life and cultures beyond our shores.

For the first time in my life I had teachers that saw things in me that I had not yet seen in myself.

Having done well in my exams, my teachers persuaded my father that I should stay on and take A levels. I and my peers were the first students to enter the 6th form and it was a truly transformative experience.

Towards the end of 6th form, I decided that I would like to be a PE teacher. Still thinking parochially, I initially looked at local teacher training colleges such as High Melton. Typically, my teachers and careers advisers would have none of it and persuaded me to aim higher and to venture further afield. So, I applied for Loughborough University which at the time was seen as one of the top PE colleges in the country.

When I was accepted at Loughborough, I was amongst the first group of Minsthorpe students to make it to university.

I qualified from Loughborough in 1976 and became a PE Teacher at Bexhill High School in East Sussex. I loved the role and became head of Department. In 1980, however, following a chance encounter with a senior police officer, I left teaching and joined Thames Valley Police as a Constable.

I served in the police for 30 years and retired in 2010 at the rank of Chief Superintendent. During my service, I held a number of prestigious roles including Head of Operations, Head of CID and Commander of Milton Keynes.

Following my retirement from the police I was employed by a charity to help protect high risk victims of domestic abuse (ie those at risk of being murdered). It is for this work that I was awarded an OBE.

With financial support from the Vodafone Foundation, I developed a 'device' which enabled high risk victims to summon emergency assistance from the police. The 'device' is provided free of charge and is known as TecSOS (Technical SOS). Even if the user is unable to speak, the police know the user's identity, case details and exact location. TecSOS is about 10% quicker than a normal 999 call and it protects victims anywhere in the world.

Having started with just 30 victims in Berkshire, TecSOS is now in operation across the whole of the UK and numerous other countries. Over 100,000 victims have used the device and (touch wood) to this day I have never lost a TecSOS user.

I am now retired and apart from a little voluntary work supporting vulnerable young people, I can spend more time with my family.

I have had a very fulfilling and happy life and look back with an element of personal pride. However, had it not been for the inspirational teachers at Minsthorpe who motivated me and gave me the self-belief to search for wider horizons, then I suspect my life would have been very different. And so, almost 50 years after I left Minsthorpe, I would like to say a very belated thank you for what Minsthorpe did for me and for helping me to become what I became.

I have attached a few photographs (listed below) and if they, or any part of my story can be of any use to you or the College website, then please feel free to use as you see fit.

I notice that Minsthorpe has an Alumni site and asks if members would be willing to share their stories with students. Whilst I live in Oxfordshire, I do visit West Yorkshire quite often and would be delighted to help in any way I can.

I wish you and your staff all the very best for the future.

Once again, thank you.

Yours Faithfully,  
John Liversidge OBE.

